Infrastructural Development in Maharashtra

434. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested any assistance for infrastructural development of roads;

(b) if so, the details of the request thereof;

(c) the total funding required; and

(d) Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA: (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, two proposals viz. Mumbai-Trans Harbour Link for Rs. 4000 Crores and Western Freeway Sea Link Project for Rs. 3960 crores have been received from Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) through the Prime Minister's Officer. In these two proposals MSRDC has requested for grant of Rs. 1600 crores and Rs. 790 crores respectively from the Centrally Government. There is no provision for Central assistance for these projects.

Accidents due to heavy vehicles

435. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 70 percent of fatal accidents in India involve a heavy vehicle and more than two-thirds of victims are vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists and two-wheeler riders;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of developing safe designs that are "friendly" to vulnerable groups; and

(c) whether R&D units are aware of this situation and whether Government are having periodical interaction with them towards developing such designs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA: (a) As reported by States/UTs, in the year 2002 about 45% of the fatalities on Indian roads involved heavy vehicles (buses, trucks, tempos, articulated vehicles and

tractors). Further pedestrians, cyclists and two wheeler riders constituted about 35% of the total fatalities.

(b) and (c) Improvement in safety related norms of automotive components, is a continuous ongoing process. Norms for Safety components in Motor Vehicles such as seat belts, laminated safety glass for wind shield, rear view mirror, lighting and signaling devices, rear under-run protection devices, power steering in cases of heavy commercial vehicles etc. have already been mandated after consulting various stake-holders. A road safety map for automotive components for next two year has also been prepared.

Construction of roads in 2005-06

†436. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ambitous project of connecting the country through roads is being implemented;

(b) if so, the number of four-lane and six-lane roads to be constructed in the country during the year 2005-06;

(c) whether sufficient funds have already been raised for construction of the said roads;

(d) if so, the amount to be spent on the same; and

(e) by when the construction of these roads would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA: (a) Yes, Sir. NHAI has been entrusted with the responsibility of development of about 14,000 mm of National Highways to 4/6 lane width under the National Highway Development Project Phase I and Phase II.

(b) Details are given in the enclose statement. (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The approved cost of NHDP Phase- is Rs. 30,300 crore and NHDP Phase-III is Rs. 34,339 crore.

(e) The NHDP Phase I and Phase II are targeted to be completed substantially by December 2007.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.